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## FARM BUSINESS FACTS

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Speaking of the egg markets ..... The Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department has just put out a report on poultry and egg production. Here are a few facts taken from that report:

Total farm production of eggs during the month of June was over 11 million cases. That's the biggest June production of eggs since the year 1930.

The average size of laying flocks in the nation was greater ..... two per cent greater .... on July first of this year than at the same time last year.

Now as to hatchings of baby chicks. June production of hatchery chicks this year was 11 per cent larger than for June of last year. But for the first SIX MONTHS this year (from January through June) production of hatchery chicks was 12 percent SMALLER than for the same six month period last year. The increase of 11 percent for the month of June this year was due to the improvement in broiler prices in relation to grain prices ... an improvement that started the latter part of April. Up to the time that improvement began to take place broiler producers had raised fewer numbers of broilers. But then they started buying chicks for immediate delivery and began to place more orders for chicks to be delivered in June and later.

Finally, a few words about cold storage holdings on July first: on that date cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs were seven per cent larger than a year ago at the same time; poultry holdings in cold storage were 22 percent larger; and storage holdings of turkeys were 111 percent larger.

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